

excellent. We commend it strongly to Canadian mining men.

A CUSTOM SAMPLER FOR COBALT.

Some time ago a mild request was put before the Ontario Government. Facts, figures, and opinions were presented shewing, or tending to shew, that beneficent results would accrue to the Cobalt region if a public sampling plant were erected in Cobalt. We believe that the proposal was given not unfavourable consideration. However, although an appropriation was actually made, the scheme withered and died.

Possibly this was well. Nothing beyond a rather indecorous auction sale has come of the Ontario Government's attempt to operate the Provincial mine on the Gillies Limit. The Department of Mines has been, and is, undermanned. One devoted official inspects all the mines of the Province, and, during the life of the late lamented Provincial mine, the same official acted also as mine manager. Hence we have misgivings as to the manner in which a public sampler might have been operated.

It has always appeared to us that a modern sampling plant is a *sine qua non* in any large metal-mining camp. Cobalt needs one, not only because of the variable and complex character of its ores, but also because of the camp's relation to the smelters and to the market generally. Study of the situation compels us to conclude that an independent sampling plant, well-situated to receive and discharge shipments of ore, will surely promote peace between the ore-producer and the ore-buyer, and will, in the long run, influence favourably the prices paid.

It has remained for two enterprising young Canadians to carry out the project of designing and erecting a custom sampler in Cobalt. Messrs. Campbell and Deyell, who have practised for some years in Cobalt as surveyors, assayers, and mining engineers, have elaborated plans and specifications for a suitable sampler, and have also, we understand, succeeded in interesting sufficient Canadian capital to warrant the immediate construction of the plant.

On another page we publish full particulars of the projected sampler. It suffices here to signify our warm approval of the new enterprise.

THE PETERSON LAKE SQUABBLE.

From the Cobalt Peterson Lake—Nova Scotia controversy there is at least one lesson to be learned. An acrimonious dispute arose over the alleged carelessness of the Nova Scotia Silver Cobalt Mining Company in working ground leased from the Peterson Lake Silver Cobalt Mining Company. Into the particulars of the case it is hardly profitable to go. But it is evident that through lack of skilled supervision the Peterson Lake

Company has been placed in an awkward position. So also has the offending Nova Scotia Company. If the mining operations of both companies had been under the absolute control, not of absentee directors, but of competent mining engineers, the dispute never would have arisen.

Engineers were engaged by the Peterson Lake Company at the eleventh hour. Mr. Segsworth's report, which we have had the pleasure of reading, is definitive, careful, and businesslike. It stands out in strong relief when compared with many of the slim documents, labelled reports, that have emanated from Cobalt. Associated with Mr. Segsworth was Mr. J. W. Astley, formerly of Le Roi mine. The report reflects credit upon both gentlemen, and, as is always the case when competent engineers are concerned, it deals logically with hard facts, presenting them in such a way as to be thoroughly intelligible to the layman.

There are several mines and many prospects in and about Cobalt that require diagnosis and treatment by a real mining engineer. The *bona fide* mining engineer is always called upon in time of trouble. But it is better business to get him as a preventive rather than as a cure.

THE DUNCAN RIVER COUNTRY, B.C.

A mining region of great progress is the Duncan River country, north of Kaslo, B.C. The lead-silver ores of this district are well worth exploiting. Authentic analyses show that some of the ore bodies carry high percentages of lead and respectable quantities of silver. Assays carrying from 50 to 100 ounces of silver, along with from 50 to 65 per cent. of lead are not uncommon.

The absence of roads has deterred the development of the Duncan River district. It is expected now that the Provincial Government will commence the construction of wagon roads at an early date. Indeed a good road is even now under construction. This leads up Hall Creek and will form one link in the necessary chain.

The Government of British Columbia will be amply repaid in the future for any expenditure of this kind undertaken now.

POLAR POLEMICS.

When the jaded citizen turns to his evening newspaper for refreshment, ten to one his eye falls upon columns of Cook and pages of Peary. Already we are sufficiently familiar with the domestic virtues of both gentlemen. We know how each of them looks in deer-skins, and in conventional garb. We know Peary's opinion of Cook, and Cook's opinion of Peary, and we have formed our own opinion of both. And our own opinion will require censoring if this kind of thing is continued.

In Montreal are several clever gentlemen who make a specialty of merging and combining industries that are